

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Commission Regulation 9072

Intermediate and Advanced Certificates for Public Safety Dispatchers

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) proposes to replace the current Public Dispatcher Certificate with a Dispatcher Basic Certificate, add two new dispatcher certificates, and revise the Certificate Application-Public Safety Dispatcher (POST 2-289) accordingly.

Several California departments and agencies have experienced problems in retaining public safety dispatchers. Therefore, the Commission amended the POST Strategic Plan in April 2004, to add Objective C.1: “study the feasibility of providing intermediate and advanced professional certificates for dispatchers.” In June 2006, POST convened a Public Safety Dispatchers Workshop comprised of POST staff and public safety dispatcher subject matter experts (SMEs) from various local law enforcement agencies. The SME group developed eligibility requirements for the two additional dispatcher certificates, and discussed the levels of education, training, and experience for the award of each certificate. Using regular peace officer certificate requirements as a guide to develop recommended experience and training point requirements, the group kept the same degree and education point categories. However, they determined that a dispatcher needs more experience to qualify for the higher certificates, and recognized that not as much training is available or required.

About 51% of the 6,600 public safety dispatchers in California possess a POST Public Safety Dispatcher Certificate. POST and the SME group believe that adding two dispatcher certificates will help dispatchers and their departments set training goals, offer promotional opportunities, serve as a recruitment tool, build professional development, and recognize career advancement.

Regulation 9072

9072 Grammar changes to the title reflect the change from one to multiple (three) available certificates in the public safety dispatcher category.

9072(a) Grammar changes to the title and content reflect the change from one to multiple (three) available certificates in the public safety dispatcher category.

9072 (c) amendments change the existing Public Safety Dispatcher Certificate to the “Dispatcher Basic Certificate.” This existing certificate becomes the entry-level dispatcher certificate and creates a base for the addition of the Dispatcher Intermediate and Advanced certificates. The qualifications for this certificate remain the same.

New 9072(d) establishes the new Intermediate Certificate category and certificate requirements, as determined by POST staff and dispatcher subject matter experts. The recommended combinations of education and training are specific to dispatchers and reflect the fact that the opportunities to complete dispatcher-specific training are not as plentiful as the opportunities for peace officer training.

New 9072(e) establishes the new Advanced Certificate category and certificate requirements, as determined by POST staff and dispatcher subject matter experts. The recommended combinations of education and training are specific to dispatchers and reflect the fact that the opportunities to complete dispatcher-specific training are not as plentiful as the opportunities for peace officer training.

9072(d) and (e) become 9072 (f) and (g), for consistency with the outline numbering format.

Certificate Application - Public Safety Dispatcher Certificates, POST 2-289

Amendments to the form simplify the form title for clarity, create three certificate categories, organize the form elements into sections, make grammar changes for clarity, and offer an electronic fill-and-save form.

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Page 1 amendments include a new information privacy statement appears, consistent with POST policy to add this statement to revisions of POST forms that collect confidential information such as a social security number. Deleted information shown on the current form includes fields 3 4, 11, and 13. POST does not need this information to determine an applicant's certificate eligibility.

Page 1 Section 1 establishes an application for three certificate categories: Dispatcher Basic, Dispatcher Intermediate, and Dispatcher Advanced, to replace the one-category dispatcher certificate application.

Page 1 Section 2 collects the information shown on the existing form in fields 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Page 1 Section 3 establishes a new section to collect information needed to determine the applicant's time-in-service eligibility for the POST Intermediate and Advanced Dispatcher certificates.

Page 1 Section 4, fields 11 to 13 collect the information shown on the existing form in fields 9, 10, and 12. Fields 14 through 17 establish a new section to collect information needed to determine the applicant's education-and-training point eligibility for the intermediate and advanced certificates

Page 1 "Section 5: ATTESTATION" appears in the bar over fields 18 through 20. Inadvertently omitted from the Commission's version, this title adds clarity and consistency with form design. This is a non-substantive change. Fields 18 and 20 collect the information shown on the existing form in fields 14 and 15. New field 19 allows POST to contact the employing agency when there is a question.

Page 2, "Instructions to Applicant" parallels the existing instruction page, except for the deletions and additions identified above. Each field title expands slightly on the type of information needed.

Page 3 is for entering the information shown in "For POST Use Only" on the existing form, with some exceptions – a deletion of the out-of-date field "Evaluation Approved By." New fields collect education units, training points, and additional units, which POST will record when issuing the new certificate.

Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting California Businesses, Including Small Business

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training has made an initial determination that the amended regulations will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting California businesses, including the ability to compete with businesses in other states. The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training has found that the proposed amendments will have no effect on California businesses, including small businesses, because the Commission sets selection and training standards for law enforcement and does not impact California businesses, including small businesses.

Cost Impacts on Representative Private Persons or Businesses

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this proposed action.

Assessment

The adoption of the proposed regulation amendments will neither create nor eliminate jobs in the state of California, and will not result in the elimination of existing businesses or create or expand businesses in the State of California.

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Consideration of Alternatives

To take this action, the Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or otherwise identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, or would be as effective as and less burdensome to effected private persons than the proposed action.